

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 669 (Delegate Glass)  
Environmental Matters

---

**Harford County - Deer Muzzle Loader Season - January Days**

---

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to include, in Harford County, a minimum of two days in January for the hunting of both antlered and antlerless deer during the deer muzzle loader season.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill is not expected to materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill is not expected to materially affect local operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** DNR establishes the open season to hunt forest and upland game birds and mammals by regulation each year. DNR may adopt regulations to enlarge, extend, restrict, or prohibit hunting wildlife. There are three seasons to hunt deer in Maryland: deer bow hunting season, deer firearms season, and deer muzzle loader season.

**Background:** Because white-tailed deer thrive in habitat that is composed of woods and openings and because hunter access in those areas is limited, suburban development has provided excellent deer habitat in the State, resulting in an escalation of deer populations in suburban areas. Higher populations of deer can lead to a greater number of negative

interactions with suburban residents such as deer-vehicle collisions and vegetation damage.

According to DNR, regulated hunting remains the most cost-effective deer population control mechanism available throughout most of the State.

DNR advises that currently, the deer muzzle loader season in Harford County includes a season in October and a season in December. The October muzzle loader season is a three-day season for both antlered and antlerless deer. The late muzzle loader season is 10 days for both antlered and antlerless deer. The late season for 2013 included four days in January 2014.

DNR estimates that the bill could result in the harvest of an additional 100 deer on these two days in Harford County depending on what days are selected.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 2014  
mm/lgc

---

Analysis by: Michael Sanelli

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510